MIDI player™

USERS MANUAL

PASSPORT

"The Music Software Source"

FOR COMMODORE 64

MIDI PLAYER

Video Graphics & MIDI Album Program for use with MIDI/4 and MIDI/8 Sequencers

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INTRODUCTION

MIDI PLAYER allows you to take sequencer tracks recorded with MIDI/4, MIDI/4 PLUS, or MIDI/8 PLUS*, and organize them into self-playing "albums". In addition, **MIDI PLAYER** generates high speed, high-resolution color graphics which are controlled by the speed, rhythm, and complexity of the music. The mixture of multi-track MIDI music playback and synchronized, "state-of-the-art" computer graphics make **MIDI PLAYER** both an endlessly fascinating program for home entertainment, and a sophisticated tool for developing the video aspects of your musical performances.

REQUIREMENTS

This version of MIDI PLAYER requires the following:

* A Commodore 64 computer with disk drive.
* A color video monitor.
* Passport Design's MH-01C MIDI Interface.
* At least one MIDI instrument.
* Passport Design's **MIDI/4, MIDI/4 PLUS,** or **MIDI/8 PLUS*** Software Sequencer program.
* (OPTIONAL) A drum machine.

You must have one of Passport's MIDI Software Sequencers to use this program; you **cannot record** with MIDI PLAYER. It is a **playback-only** program.

For instructions on hooking up all of the above mentioned hardware, consult your MIDI Software Sequencer manual.

GETTING STARTED

To begin using MIDI PLAYER, turn on -- **in this order** -- your disk drive, computer, and MIDI instrument(s). Then place the program disk in the drive and enter the command: **LOAD "*",8,1**

When the READY prompt reappears, enter: **RUN**

The program is menu-driven; most of the time your options are shown on the screen and you simply pick a number or letter. When you first start the program, you are asked to enter the CLOCK rate for the non-MIDI DRUM SYNC (**2** for 24 or **4** for 48 -- if you are unsure of what this means, consult your MIDI/4 or MIDI/8 manual).

After making a choice you are shown the MAIN MENU. There are two major sections to this program: **MIDI PLAYER**, and **SET MAKER**.

* PLEASE NOTE - IN ORDER TO USE MIDI/8+ FILES YOU MUST FIRST CONVERT THEM TO MIDI/4+ FILES

SET MAKER

After selecting SET MAKER from the MAIN MENU, you're asked to put your MIDI Sequencer data disk in your disk drive. You may use any MIDI/4, MIDI/4 PLUS, or MIDI/8 PLUS* data disk you have or you may make special "album" disks; installing "playlists" on a data disk does not interfere with using it as a regular MIDI Sequencer data disk.

Don't write-protect your data disk! When you create a set, a "playlist" is created which lists the songs in the set, the order they're played in, and what graphics go with which song, and the "playlist" **must** be saved on the data disk with the songs.

There are seven options on the SET MAKER menu:

1 CREATE A SET
2 SAVE A SET
3 TRANSFER A SET
4 TRANSFER A SONG
5 DELETE A SET
6 DELETE A SONG
RUN STOP TO MAIN MENU

CREATE A SET is used to pick the songs that will be in a set, the order the songs are played in, and the graphics that will accompany the song playback.

SAVE A SET saves the "playlist" after you've created a set.

TRANSFER A SONG moves an individual sequencer data file from one disk to another.

TRANSFER A SET moves an entire set, including the "playlist" and **all** the sequencer data files in the set, from one disk to another.

DELETE A SET and **DELETE A SONG** should be self-explanatory.

After you have chosen to CREATE A SET, you're shown the catalog of the songs on the data disk. (Use the TRANSFER options to move files around until you have the songs you want on the disk.) Pick the songs to be in the set by **letter**; after you pick a song you're asked to pick its **graphic pattern** by **letter**, and then the **graphic density** by **number**. There are **eight** graphic patterns labeled **A** through **H**, and **nine** densities labeled **1** through **9**.

Finally, you must pick the **pause** before the song plays; **1** through **9** select pauses in increments of 5 seconds (i.e., **1** means a 5 second pause, **2** means a 10 second pause). If you enter **0** here the program will stop before the song, and you will have to press **space** to continue.

You can have a maximum of **nine** songs in a set; once you have picked the songs you want in the set, you must **SAVE A SET** in order for the "playlist" to be saved.

SETS are not "exclusive". The same song can be in several different sets on the same disk. In addition, after a song has been put into a set you can still load it into your MIDI Sequencer program and use it the same as any other sequencer tracks file.

MIDI PLAYER

There are two options under the MIDI PLAYER listing on the MAIN MENU. You may either **PLAY A SONG**, or **PLAY A SET**. If you elect to **PLAY A SONG** you are shown the catalog of the disk, and allowed to pick any song and play it.

If you elect to **PLAY A SET**, you're shown the catalog of "playlists" on the disk and asked to pick one. While a set is playing, there are a number of keys that are active.

Press A through H to change the **graphic pattern.**
Press 1 through 9 to change the **graphic density.**
Press **SPACEBAR** to skip to the next song in the set.
Press **f1** to speed up the playback tempo.
Press **f3** to slow down the playback tempo.
Press **RUN STOP** to quit and return to the previous menu.

If you have a drum machine connected to either the MIDI OUT or DRUM SYNC jack (depending on the type of drum machine you have) it will operate normally while the set is playing. As far as the instruments in your MIDI system are concerned, MIDI PLAYER operates identically to your MIDI Sequencer Software.

Pressing the SPACEBAR when you are in the PLAY A SONG mode will re-start the current song in memory.

SOME SUGGESTIONS

Remember, this program does not **record** or **save** sequencer data files. If you wish to change the starting TEMPO, starting PRESET, or MIDI CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT of a track, load it into your MIDI/4 or MIDI/8 program, make the changes you wish, and save it again.

If your sequencer tracks were originally recorded with **LOOP ON**, they **will** play back "looped" in MIDI PLAYER. If you have a song with LOOP ON in a set, MIDI PLAYER will continue to repeat that song until your computer erodes into dust or you press the **SPACEBAR**, whichever comes first.

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